



# Little Scioto River Cleanup Begins

## Baker Wood Creosoting Site

Marion, Ohio

July 2002

### Additional Information

If you have questions about the Little Scioto River or Baker Wood cleanups, or would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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As cleanup reports are developed, they will be placed in an administrative record file at:

#### Marion Public Library

445 E. Church St.

Marion, Ohio

The administrative record file contains detailed information upon which EPA will base its cleanup decisions.

A copy of this fact sheet and others can be downloaded from the EPA Region 5 web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites>

A year-long project is under way to clean a section of the Little Scioto River. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is running the project, using funds available through the Oil Pollution Act. The pollution in the river's sediment was caused by an oil-based contaminant. An oily sheen on the river is visible evidence of the pollution, which is a result of dumping the contaminant into the river over a long period of time. The most likely source is the nearby Baker Wood Creosoting Site, which EPA is cleaning up now.

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 was a response to the Exxon oil spill in Alaska. It provides funds for EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard to clean up navigable waterways when the person or company responsible for the contamination cannot be found. EPA is charged with protecting inland waterways, while the Coast Guard protects coastal waterways.

## Cleanup Schedule

Work began the week of June 17 by setting up trailers to serve as mobile field offices. These trailers are staged at the former municipal landfill property near State Route 95, just west of the Whirlpool Company. Workers started by clearing bushes and small trees in anticipation of sediment removal activities.

EPA and its contractors began cleanup in North Rockswale Ditch the week of July 8. The first step was driving sheets of metal into the ditch to form large oblong pools. Water is then pumped out of these pools, called "cells," so the contaminated sediment can be dug out more easily. The cells will be spaced 200 to 600 feet along the ditch so contamination will not be carried downstream.

The excavated sediment may be temporarily stored on the riverbank. Eventually, it will be moved to a lined storage area to allow the sediment to dry.



*A probe moves an oily sheen across the top of the Little Scioto River.*

Then it will be shipped to an approved facility that is allowed to handle such waste.

It will take six to eight weeks to remove the ditch sediment which is contaminated with polyaromatic hydrocarbons, a by-product of creosote. EPA will work its way from the ditch to the river.

By fall, cleanup work should start just north of the Holland Road Bridge and proceed south (downstream). Although people do not fish or swim in the river, warning signs are posted as a reminder that this is a “no contact zone” because of the contamination. Work will continue as long as weather permits.

Since approximately 40,000 cubic yards of sediment (if piled 20 feet high, this could fill a football field) need to be removed, the entire cleanup could take more than 12 months (two construction seasons) to complete. EPA estimates that it will cost about \$7 million to remove the river sediment and another \$3 million to restore trees and bushes along the riverbank and to dispose of the contaminated waste.

## **Baker Wood Soil Cleanup**

At the Baker Wood Creosoting Site, contaminated soil is being cleaned through a process called “bioremediation.” Work at the site has temporarily stopped while the ditch and river are cleaned. Piles of contaminated soil are still stored, behind a locked fence, near the northwest corner of Holland Road and State Route 309. A decision has not been made on when work will resume.

EPA continues to collect information on the low-level contamination still below the Baker Wood property. Ohio EPA will evaluate the site and determine what future actions will be recommended to evaluate the threat to human health and the environment.